

## THE DAY I LOST MY CATHOLICISM

pete was seven years old and  
brought home a Tintoretto crayon  
scene of what i can't remember

but accompanied by the admonition:  
"stay within the lines!"  
the pope could not have summed  
up the church's thinking more succinctly.

## TO WILT CHAMBERLAIN

you were never my favorite center  
because i'm partial to the hook-shot  
which you never attempted nor needed  
and which i feel is as aesthetic as  
an entrechat, if a shade this side  
of a Fred Astaire turn.

but i will never question your  
unparalleled skills from hoop to hoop.  
no need to detail your records.  
you own them all. and as they say,  
we do not have the space here.

the inside move i question was not made  
on the court, but made in the bedroom  
where you were also an apparent all-league,  
Kim Novak to the witness stand.

I can understand that you tire of women  
from your olympian abode where even  
the starlets must become pedestrian.  
but you said you want a family  
and some day will adopt  
older, lucky kids.

what a pity you have not chosen to loose  
upon the world wilt-begat bairn  
out of select Juliet Prowse stables.

the potential of your progeny  
boggles this lay geneticist.